

NSC BRIEFING

~~SECRET~~

4 March 1959

BACKGROUND BRIEFING ON ~~NEAR EAST~~ AFRICA

- I. Many African problems foreseen in NIE 100-³⁹ are materializing possibly even more rapidly than we had anticipated. We will be increasingly faced with need to make adjustments in our planning and our actions. Militant African nationalism is spreading to almost all areas of the continent.
- A. Political change has been most rapid in French Africa where autonomous republics have replaced colonies.
1. Recent violence in Brazzaville indicative of continuing strength of primitive tribal forces in areas of rapid political evolution.
- B. British Africa is now experiencing nationalist unrest.
1. African extremists are responsible for extensive rioting in Nyasaland. They aim at dismemberment of white-settler dominated Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasa.
2. In Kenya where we had the Mau Mau terrorism and unrest is growing as British refuse to permit rapid African political evolution and early control.
- C. Formerly quiet Belgian Congo is also now experiencing nationalist violence.
1. Brussels has recognized inevitable Congo independence but hopes to channel nationalism by extensive political reform which will probably be ineffective.
- D. UN trust territory of Somalia confronts West with serious political problems. (As was noted last week)

3
DOCUMENT NO. _____
NO CHANGE IN CLASS. LI
DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: _____
AUTH: HR 7000
DATE: 2-28-80 REVIEWER: _____

~~SECRET~~

1. Legislative elections in early March held in atmosphere of violence and illegality.
2. Problem of growing Somali nationalism with its appeal to tribesmen in adjacent territories is damaging relations between Britain and Ethiopia and offers potential advantage to Cairo.

II. Communist efforts in Africa growing.

- A. Emphasis in Soviet Union on African academic studies, stepped up broadcasting, and contacts with African students.
- B. Increasing efforts to infiltrate independent countries, particularly Guinea and Ghana.
 1. In Guinea, Bloc granted early diplomatic recognition and has established embassy and signed economic and cultural agreements.
 2. Ghana has agreed to the imminent establishment of a Soviet embassy.

III. There has been a noteworthy development of African regional unity.

- A. Growing number, importance, and attendance at pan-African conferences like the December meeting at Accra.
- B. Sentiment is increasing for political groupings like the Ghana-Guinea association.
- C. Tendency to work as a bloc in United Nations matters like current Cameroun question.
- D. Regionalism felt in economic field where special UN office set up in Addis Ababa and labor leaders moving to found an African labor federation independent of both ICFTU and WFTU.

~~SECRET~~